

Sample Slab Update #6 – September 2015

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Sample Slabs Book Available for Immediate Shipping at Pre-Order Price

SAMPLE SLABS

*Including Sample, Promotional, Club, Show,
Luncheon, Novelty, and Young Numismatist
Coin and Currency Holders.*



DAVID SCHWAGER

Sample Slabs is again ahead of schedule and I now have the printed copies in hand. Pre-order customers, I already mailed your copies. Because the earlier pre-order offer is good until September 2, you can now pay the pre-order price and have your book shipped right away.

Starting September 17 at the Long Beach Coin Expo, the book will be available to the general public for \$24 + \$5 shipping for softcover and \$14 for the PDF download. From now until September 2, the discounted pre-order prices are:

Softcover	\$19 + \$5 shipping
PDF	\$10
Both	\$24 + \$5 shipping

To order, send PayPal to davidschwager@hotmail.com. Be sure to include your mailing address. If ordering the PDF download, include an email when I can send a download link. Email me if you would prefer to send a check or pay a different way.

The first book on this emerging numismatic specialty, [Sample Slabs](#) includes:

- 580 slabs
- 32 grading services
- 600+ photos (b&w in softcover, color in PDF)
- 445 pages at 8 1/2" by 5 1/2"
- Prices for all items based on detailed market research

This offer is available only to Sample Slab Update readers. Please email me with any questions and order now to get your discount.

Coin World Runs Sample Slab Article

Coin World Editor-at-Large Steve Roach devoted his Coin Values Market Analysis column of July 27, 2015 to sample slabs. Titled "Sample Slabs: Collect the Holder," the article mentioned the upcoming book, quoted me, and analyzed three recent auction sales of samples at eBay and Great Collections.

PCGS Uses Underwater Sample Slab in Print Advertising

A PCGS print ad running in the July 2015 monthly Coin World showed a 2015 Silver Eagle sample slab in a fishbowl with a live fish. Using the tagline "~~Do Not~~ Try This At Home," the ad intends to show that the latest PCGS holder is watertight. The URL in the ad www.PCGS.com/holder, leads to a video of PCGS president Don Willis using production slabs in the same fishbowl in a demonstration. At 2:35, the video shows a different sample, this one a China 2011 yuan.



Market Notes

A sample from a previously unknown grader, NCS or Numismatic Conservation Services, sold on eBay for \$157.51 on June 7. NCS was a brand used by NGC for restoration of problem coins. Labeled “SAMPLE” and “ACID ETCHED,” the holder included a 1915 Buffalo nickel.

Until a few weeks ago, the only gold sample of which I knew was the NGC promotional Mexico 1945 2 pesos in my collection labeled “Compliments of UCB.” I was surprised and pleased when a friend at my local coin club sold me another NGC promotional with the same coin, this one labeled “Compliments of / Liberty Coin Service / Toll-Free 800-527-2375 / www.libertycoinservice.com.” He bought the slab from a Latin American coin specialist for the value of the enclosed coin.

Another rarity sold on eBay August 11, this time the NGC New York quarter given only to Girl Scouts at the 2002 ANA fall convention. The sample has a four-cent stamp honoring the Girl Scouts inside the holder between the soft white insert and the clear back cover. I was the underbidder at this auction that closed at \$208.50.

The seller known as rs1055 continues to put high-quality NGC and PCGS samples on eBay, although not as many as in June and July.

It seems that the recent publicity about samples, although modest, has brought more supply into the market. It is less clear whether more collectors have also entered the sample market. I hope that the catalog will define the market and give collectors the confidence to start collecting samples and expand their collections.

I see more awareness on samples and related slabs among dealers, who need to be well-informed as part of their business. At a California coin show a few days ago, two dealers, who do not usually handle this type of material, had slabs priced at fair or above-market prices. I get fewer blank stares when I ask for sample slabs. One coin shop owner, when he learned I was a sample slab specialist, would not sell me a PCGS Silver Eagle labeled “Specimen” (sampleslabs.com type PCGS6.4 or [Sample Slabs](#) PCGS-Ag1-3-1) at any price.

Contact Info Request

Does anyone have an email address or other contact information for Alan Canavan, author of samplecoinslabs.com? I would like to send him a free copy of the book, but the email address I have no longer works.

Buying and Selling

Feel free to send buy and sell offers to include in the next newsletter. Maybe another SSU reader wants to buy your samples, or has the ones you need. No charge for the listings, of course.

Many of the slabs from the fixed price sale are still available. I am also interested in buying, especially from minor grading services.

Sample Slab Update #6 – September 2015 (sent 8/25/15). By David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. SampleSlabBook.com